

[Return to the AHDC Weekly Update page](#)

AHDC Email Network – Cultural Competency and Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS)
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1) New Professional-Development Course Supports Teachers' Efforts to Improve Students' Ability to Make Appropriate Health Care Decisions

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United Health Foundation and the National Education Association (NEA) Health Information Network have launched a new online professional-development workshop for K-12 teachers designed to help them enhance their students' abilities to make personally appropriate health and well-being decisions. As health care becomes more complex and as health-related information becomes more plentiful, today's students will need to develop new competencies if they are to achieve optimal health outcomes. According to the American Medical Association, "health literacy" – a basic understanding of the health information and services one needs to make appropriate health decisions – is "a stronger predictor of a person's health than age, income, employment status, educational level and race." This curriculum provides America's teachers with an important tool to help increase the health literacy of today's students. The NEA HIN's professional-development course supports educational goals that include topics such as the ability to understand instructions on prescription drug bottles; medical education literature; physician prescription and treatment plans; understanding consent forms; and navigating the health care system. The course is available at no cost can be accessed at <http://ondemand.neaacademy.org/>